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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Ralph Willard Imlay Papers
Identifier: Record Unit 7380
Date: 1933-1984 and undated
Extent: 2 cu. ft. (2 record storage boxes)
Creator: Imlay, Ralph W. (Ralph Willard), 1908-1989
Language: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7380, Ralph Willard Imlay Papers

Historical Note
Ralph Willard Imlay (1908-1989) was a paleontologist and authority on North American Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous invertebrate fauna. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1933. In 1940, Imlay joined the staff of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as a Geologist. He remained with the USGS until his retirement in 1970. Imlay was a Research Associate in the Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), from 1967 until his death.

During his USGS career, Imlay conducted extensive field research in the western United States, Alaska, and Mexico where he collected many of the Jurassic fossils in the NMNH collection. He served as President of the Paleontological Society during 1964-1965.

Introduction
This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Descriptive Entry
This collection consists mostly of correspondence documenting Ralph Willard Imlay’s work at the USGS and the Department of Paleobiology, NMNH, and his research on invertebrate paleontology. The correspondence is with USGS, domestic, and foreign colleagues and concerns the identification of
specimens, field work, publication of scientific papers, and professional matters. Also included are notes, lists, and illustrations from his research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Paleontologists
- Paleontology

Types of Materials:
- Black-and-white photographs
- Color photographs
- Manuscripts
- Picture postcards
- Scientific illustrations

Names:
- Geological Survey (U.S.)
- Imlay, Ralph W. (Ralph Willard), 1908-1989
- National Museum of Natural History (U.S.). Department of Paleobiology
- Paleontological Society
- University of Michigan